

“COORDINATED” OR “COMPREHENSIVE”

In 1987, Dr. Diane Allensworth and Dr. Lloyd Kolbe developed an eight-component model for a comprehensive, now known as coordinated, school health program. The guiding principle of the coordinated school health program is that health agencies, community institutions, families, and schools and communities work in partnership to create a seamless web of education and services that lowers the barriers to learning experienced by many children today.⁽¹⁾

In the Preface to Health Is Academic, the editors provide reasons for using the term “coordinated.” One reason is that some people in the field believe that the word “coordinated” does not encompass the word “comprehensive.”⁽²⁾ The goal is to have a comprehensive, well-coordinated school health program.

The Kentucky Board of Education has chosen the term “comprehensive school health” and recognizes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) endorsed eight-component coordinated school health model. When a school or district recognizes each of the eight components; plans, implements, and evaluates program and policies; and addresses these issues within its Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP), the school or district is addressing what the Board of Education and the Department of Education envision.

Each district or school’s health program should be based on the gaps or needs and interests within that school community. The term “comprehensive” or “coordinated” can be used to the degree that the individual district or school finds the term comfortable.